Amendments to the Drawings:

Figure 3, attached hereto, was referenced in the specification as filed and depicts an example graphical user interface in accordance with the subject application. No new matter has been added to the instant application with the incorporation of Figure 3, as the specification at page 5, lines 10-12 and 20-21, clearly includes references to Figure 3.

Attached: New Drawing Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant acknowledges, with thanks, the receipt of the office action dated July 11, 2007, and completion of the personal interview of September 19, 2007. The Examiner's observations and suggestions are much appreciated and summarized herein.

The Examiner objected to the drawing as Figure 3 was omitted, but referred to in the specification. Figure 3 has been submitted herewith and a brief description of the drawing has been added to the specification. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,348,971 to Owa et al. in view of well known prior art. Claims 1-3, 5, 8-12, 14, 16-20, 22, 24-26, 28, and 30 are currently pending.

By way of review, the subject application is directed to a system and method for optimized routing of printing. A print job is commenced to a print port associated with a client machine and print job data is queued. A prompt is issued to an associated user for print optimization authority and the print job data is communication to the print port so as to generate a printout therefrom. Status data is received from each of the plurality of associated printer devices, which status data includes data representative of a resource commitment level of each associated printer device relative to prior print job requests associated therewith. A print optimization instruction is received from the associated user in response to an issued prompt so as to commence selection of an alternative associated print device for printing and the status data is tested data against selected test criteria to determine whether at least one alternative associated printer device is desired for printing. The print job data is selectively redirected from a primary designated associated printer device by assigning the print port to a device port of a secondary associated printer device of the plurality thereof in accordance with a print optimization instruction and an output of the test means.

The subject application therefore teaches a system and method by which an application suitably sends a print job to a default printer port. A user chooses to optimize a timing of receiving a printout by active selection of print optimization. This allows a user an option to secure a print as quickly as possible when such is desired, or allow for printing in a normal course when timing is not critical. In this fashion, extra resources, including printer resource and network traffic, are not committed for optimization when it is unnecessary. Additionally, since

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selected optimization is accomplished by port redirection, then individual applications which direct outputs to a port require no further modification.

In contrast to the forgoing, Owa is directed to a system in which a user is given information relative to capabilities of alternative printing devices. Such capabilities include finishing functions available to the printer. This is far removed from actual data associated with previously submitted printing jobs associated with various printers which would delay securing a printout of a submitted job.

Amendment to each of independent claims 1, 10, 19 and 25 has been made to include limitations relative the afore-noted advantages taught by the subject application. By virtue of this amendment, each claim now includes limitations wherein a user selects whether optimization is desirable. If selected, data retrieved relative to job commitment levels of alternative print devices is retrieved, and the resultant information is used to route jobs to more desirable output devices. Such routing is accomplished by redirecting a port associated with a job output.

In light of the aforementioned amendments and comments, it is submitted that the amended claims are patentably distinct over the art of record and in condition for allowance thereover. An early allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 66329/00020.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 20, 2007

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